

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A marking system for a web advancing along a path, comprising:
 - a monitoring station at which the web advancing along said path is observed;
 - a mark signal means-device arranged to produce an appropriate mark signal on detection of a location to be marked and the nature of the required mark;
 - a tab applicator disposed downstream of the monitoring station and arranged to apply an adhesive tab to an edge margin of the web at the detected location, the tab ~~inserter-applicator~~ including an on-line printer for printing indicia on to each tab before the tab is applied to the web; and
 - a control means-arrangement receiving the mark signal from the mark signal ~~means-device~~ and driving the on-line printer and the tab applicator in a timed relationship to the advancement of the web whereby each tab is positioned at the detected location and carries appropriate indicia for that location.
2. (Original) A marking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tab applicator includes a labeling head adapted to apply tabs each in the form of a self-adhesive label to the web.
3. (Original) A marking system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the labeling head is provided with a vacuum foot which collects a printed tab and holds the tab until the detected location to be marked is there below.
4. (Previously Presented) A marking system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the labeling head includes at least one air-jet nozzle air issuing from which serves to thrust a tab discharged from the labeling head on to the web.
5. (Original) A marking system as claimed in claim 4, wherein an air controller is provided to cause air to issue from the at least one air jet nozzle only when a tab is released from the vacuum foot, to be applied to the web.
6. (Previously Presented) A marking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the on-line printer comprises one of a dot-matrix print-head, a thermal print

head or a thermal transfer print head.

7. (Previously Presented) A marking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tab applicator is arranged to advance the next tab to be applied initially at a low speed while printing takes place, the tab applicator then applying the printed tab at a relatively high speed to the advancing web, at the detected location.

8. (Original) A marking system as claimed in claim 7, wherein each tab is applied to the advancing web in a direction generally transverse to the direction of advancement of the web.

9. (Previously Presented) A marking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each tab is applied to the web so that a part of the applied tab overhangs an edge of the web.

10. (Currently Amended) A marking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a monitoring means-device is provided at the monitoring station, said monitoring means-device comprising at least one of a splice detector and a web fault detector.

11. (Original) A marking system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the web fault detector includes a video camera arranged to scan the web advancing along the path and a camera output is analysed to determine the presence of one or more web defects.

12. (Currently Amended) A marking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means-arrangement includes a remote operation controller permitting the manual production of a mark signal on visual detection of a location to be marked.

13. (Original) A method of marking a web advancing along a path, which method comprises:

monitoring the web as it passes through a monitoring station provided on said path and producing a mark signal on detection of a location on the web to be marked, the mark signal including information about the nature of the required mark;

feeding the mark signal to control means which provides a drive signal for an on-line printer and a tab applicator provided downstream of the monitoring station, the

drive signal being provided in a timed relationship to the advancement of the web; and
using the drive signal to print an adhesive tab with the on-line printer so that the tab carries appropriate indicia for the required mark and thereafter applying the tab to the web, whereby each applied tab is positioned at the noted location and carries appropriate indicia for that location.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the speed of advancement of the web is monitored and a speed signal produced dependant thereon, and said speed signal is supplied to the control means so that the tab may be applied to the web at the required location.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the indicia printed on a tab comprise a group of alphanumeric characters coded having regard to the noted defect to be marked.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein a group of three alphanumeric characters is printed on each tab.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein each tab is applied in a direction transverse to the direction of advancement of the web.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein each tab is applied to the advancing web so that a part of the tab overhangs an edge of the web.

19. (New) A marking system for a web advancing along a path, comprising:
a monitoring station at which the web advancing along the path is observed to detect defects in the web;

a mark signal device arranged to produce an appropriate mark signal on detection of a defect in the web to be marked, the mark signal corresponding to a detected location on the web to be marked and the nature of the required mark;

a tab applicator disposed downstream of the monitoring station and arranged to apply an adhesive tab to the web at the detected location, the tab applicator including an on-line printer for printing indicia on to each tab before the tab is applied to the web, said indicia being indicative of the detected defect;

a speed sensing member arranged to detect speed of advancement of the web and output a corresponding speed signal; and

a control arrangement receiving the mark signal from the mark signal device and the speed signal from the speed sensing member, said control arrangement driving the on-line printer and the tab applicator in a timed relationship to the advancement of the web whereby each tab is positioned at the detected location and carries appropriate indicia for the defect at that location.

20. (New) A marking system for a web advancing along a path, comprising:
a monitoring station at which the web advancing along the path is observed to detect defects in the web;

a mark signal generator arranged to produce an appropriate mark signal on detection of a defect in the web to be marked, the mark signal corresponding to a detected location on the web to be marked and the nature of the required mark;

a web speed sensor arranged to detect speed of advancement of the web and output a corresponding speed signal;

an electronic controller receiving the mark signal from the mark signal generator and the speed signal from the speed sensor, and generating a tabbing signal; and

a tab applicator disposed downstream of the monitoring station and arranged to apply a tab in the form of a self-adhesive label to the web at the detected location, the tab applicator including

an on-line printer for printing indicia on to a label before said label is applied to the web, said indicia being indicative of the detected defect, and

a labeling head having a vacuum foot for collecting a printed label and holding the label until the detected location to be marked of the web is below the vacuum foot,

said tabbing signal driving the on-line printer and the labeling head in a timed relationship to advancement of the web whereby each tab carries appropriate indicia

for the defect at a location to be marked and is released from the labeling head to be positioned on the web at the detected defect location.

21. (New) A marking system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the labeling head includes at least one air jet nozzle, air issuing therefrom which serves to thrust a tab discharged from the labeling head onto the web.

22. (New) A marking system as claimed in claim 21, wherein an air controller is provided to cause air to issue from the at least one air jet nozzle only when a tab is released from the vacuum foot, to be applied to the web.